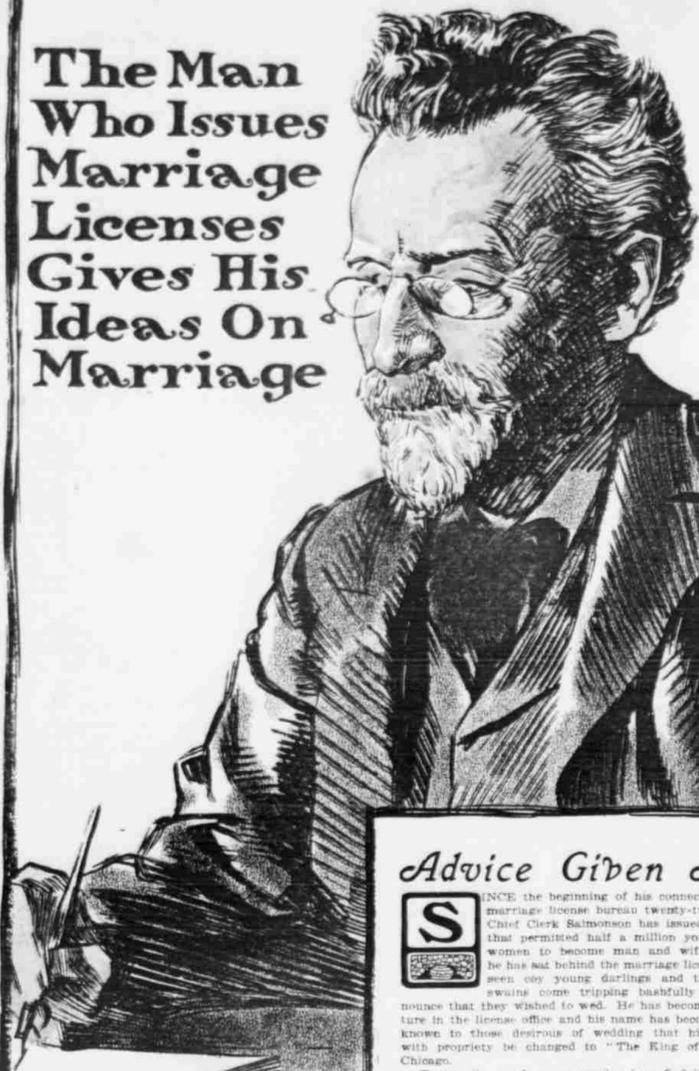


The Man Who Issues Marriage Licenses Gives His Ideas On Marriage

HOW TO GET A HUSBAND AND HOW TO KEEP HIM

The Judge Who Has Granted Many Divorces Tells How To Keep Out Of His Court



"Remember that there is bound to be considerable friction," said the license clerk. "Don't imagine that your lover is a hero or a demigod," says the judge.

Advice Given After Twenty-Two Years As License Clerk.

SINCE the beginning of his connection with the marriage license bureau twenty-two years ago Chief Clerk Salmonson has issued the licenses that permitted half a million young men and women to become man and wife. Since 1882 he has sat behind the marriage license desk and seen coy young darlings and their stalwart swains come tripping bashfully up and announce that they wished to wed. He has become such a fixture in the license office and his name has become so widely known to those desirous of wedding that his title might with propriety be changed to "The King of Hymen" in Chicago.

Frequently couples on marrying bent find their way into the county building who ask for Mr. Salmonson instead of the license bureau and being told that he is out go away disappointed, wondering why the man who holds the marriage of a city in his hand should trouble to take luncheon. Salmonson has had dealings with more love-stricken people than any man in the world and he is an authority on marriage: its woes and happiness.

May Be Happy, Though Married.

There is a note of hope for prospective married people in the philosophy that Mr. Salmonson has observed in his years of close observation of the problem matrimonial. "It is possible to be happy though married," this is what Mr. Salmonson says, and he should know. "It is possible to be happy though married, and it is not necessary to lead a turtle dove, continuous honeymoon existence to do so," he continues. "Young people about to be married should recognize the fact that there is bound to be considerable friction, considerable divergence of opinions and disagreements because of difference of views.

"They should recognize that these things are inevitable in the hallowed state of matrimony. They should learn that the little spat of the moment is only a natural sequence to circumstances, and learn to adjust their lives accordingly, recognizing the fact that the little quarrel if not pursued to any further extent is of little moment in their lives and will have absolutely no effect upon their happiness in the long run. Married people have quarreled since the beginning of the world and will continue to do so to the end. There is nothing serious in a little quarrel. It comes like a cloud on a sunny day, darkens the sky a few minutes, and if people will only let it do so, is as quickly gone.

"But so many young people, when they get married, enter the state of matrimony imagining that their 'lovely' days are going to last forever. They think that because they make strenuous love to each other previous to their marriage they are going to continue to do so for the rest of their natural lives. When they have their first quarrel, after a few weeks

of married life, they imagine that a great catastrophe has befallen their happiness, that their future is ruined irrevocably. The wife is apt to go to her mother's and tell her that hubby does not love her any more. The husband goes to his work decidedly troubled in mind and heart and their general happiness is seriously disturbed.

Wrongs Righted by a Kiss.

"As a matter of fact the quarrel would amount to nothing if the parties concerned did not have an exaggerated idea of its importance. A soft answer turneth away wrath, and in married life a kiss will instantly right many wrongs. In fact the motto of newly married couples should be, 'Kiss and make up.' The quicker they are to kiss and make up and forget their differences after their little quarrels the better it will be for them, and the diminishment of divorces in this country will soon be marked.

"One of the best remedies of the divorce evil would be to teach people how to live happily in the state of wedlock. Of course, this would be a big contract. Happiness is not so easily secured. But contentment may be taught anybody and the secret of living contentedly as man and wife is one that could be with profit imparted to every young couple in this wide land. What is the secret? Well, I have told you part of it. Of course, the other should be that they really love each other, for in the face of love much can be endured that would otherwise cause a serious rupture."

Unused Licenses Returned.

Mr. Salmonson is not one of those who have been made cynical and hard-hearted through seeing thousands of young people begin the journey of life together in double harness. He still believes in marriages, but one good sign of the day, in his estimation, is the number of licenses which are returned without being used. "Every once in a while a man takes out a license one day and is back with it the next, wanting to get his money returned," says he. "The reasons they give are varied, but they can all be traced back to one great source, the one that helps fill our divorce courts: incompatibility of temper. Some time after the issuing of the license and previous to the performance of the ceremony the two young people discover that they are not fitted for each other. The fact that they then resolve to call everything off and return the license indicates that people are beginning to use more common sense in their wooing and wedding. If these young people went blindly ahead and got married the result would be only a waste of money and a waste of the court's time. I figure that every license returned here unused is one number of the great total of divorces."

Speaking of the qualifications that a man or woman should possess Mr. Salmonson gives much hope to the plain woman

and homely man. He declares that it is not at all necessary to be good looking to win a wife or a husband. But he declares that it is an advantage to be a foreigner.

Qualifications for Marriage.

"The Slavonic element leads all others in the matter of marriage in this city," is the way he puts it. "Poles, Bohemians, Lithuanians and Hungarians are way ahead of all others when their total number in the city's population is considered. Apparently they are strongly opposed to single blessedness. They don't marry young; but they are sure to do so in the long run. The Italians also are well up in the race and they have the championship for early marriage." Therefore, if any one of either sex is worried about not getting married all that is necessary, apparently, is to be born in any of the countries above mentioned and come to the city of Chicago to live.

But of the process and methods whereby the despairing swain may win the angel of his dreams the new Solomon of marriages is silent. Apparently this is something that cannot be learned so that one may deem himself competent to advise upon the subject, even after twenty-two years of intimate association with people who are in love. All other things a man may learn, and learn so he can teach others, but of the way into a woman's heart no man is so wise that he may speak and others profit thereby.

Every Man His Own Lovemaker.

Mr. Salmonson stands ready to let others profit from the wisdom he has acquired in matters matrimonial through years of experience, but of the making of love even he does not speak. The secret must be that each man has a lovelymaking system of his own, or the each woman requires a different manner of wooing if she is to be won. Or is it that the lovelymaking of all people are quite the same, that the amours of the swarth Dolores and Pietro, who hail from the sunny land of Italy, are like unto those of Olaf and Hulda of the far north, and that the secret of it all is known by all men and yet no man can speak authoritatively concerning it.

Chief Clerk Salmonson admits that the question is one that baffles him; he will not attempt to tell any young man how to make love. He is a wise man, is the chief clerk, wise and cautious in many things beside his vocation. But of the results of lovelymaking among the various races he has no doubts.

His books tell the final chapter of many a splendid romance. No matter what may be the rank or station of any one, no matter whether prince or pauper, when Cupid in this city has done his duty and brought a man and woman to decide to wed they must all, perforce, find their way to the desk of Salmonson.

say nothing of the suits that are pending. In these decrees may have been refusal of divorce, and in some cases only separate maintenance may have been the result of the suit. But in an overwhelming majority of these decrees the finding has been absolute divorce, based upon desertion as the charge. Next to desertion pleaded in a bill, drunkenness and cruelty rank in their order. Frequently drunkenness and cruelty go together in the complaint, while in comparatively few cases does either wife or husband make the charge of unfaithfulness.

Few Joneses on Divorce Docket.

Looking through the almost interminable dockets of the divorce courts, where of necessity other dockings in other legal cases are filed, one may find some odd suggestions. There are indications that there may be something in a name, for instance.

The Johnsons—without and with the "t"—lead in the city directory, and naturally it might be expected that the divorce court records would show their evidences of "too much Johnson." They do; but the Jacksons, and the Jansons, and the Joneses are numerous in proportion among the "Ja." The Jones family, however, shows an unexpectedly small representation compared with any of the other "Ja." Taking the dockets for 11 and comparing Jones with any of the other common names, the young woman can make no mistake in taking one of the family.

But the Smiths are by no means to be sneezed at in a matrimonial way, unless in the German branch of the family. Evidently Schmidt is by no means as amiable as his Anglicized brother in Chicago. The Teutonic arrangement of the name is almost twice as frequent in the records as is the other.

Odd Names Among Divorces.

According to these records, Mr. and Mrs. Horse have been relieved of the duty of pulling together. The docket necessarily does not hint at the trouble between the two, but it will be suspected of being a case of "horse and horse."

Listing these odd names and setting one off against another, it will be conceded that there is nothing in a name, after all. They mean nothing. As many people of the name of Wood seek divorce as there are those of the name of Stone. The Wolf and the Lamb scarcely could be differentiated as to temperament by these records of the divorce mills. In the main, however, those names having a sound chilling or hair raising to more or less extent attract attention in the records. In parallel columns one may get the suggestion of proportion:

Horse,	Smiley,	Swager,
Wood,	True,	Winter,
Rind,	Hunger,	Wolf,
Klamm,	Panther,	Villany,
Love,	Shivers,	Verbox,
Lamb,	Shivers,	
Meeker,	Snowball,	

These are inspirations to some one having in view a comic opera that shall involve the dramatic decadence of domesticity. But the names are all too true to be really funny, even in the divorce decrees of the Chicago courts.

Experience Gained from Chicago's 11,000 Divorces Annually.

A fiancée or as bride, engaged or newly married in the man you love, the advice of Judge Marcus Kavanagh of the Superior court as to how to retain that love should be doubly interesting because of his wide experience, officially, with those who have lost the love of husbands numbering 1,300 in a year, in Chicago.

"Don't imagine for a moment that your lover is either a hero or a demigod," is the judge's admonition. "Don't let him lose a minute dreaming that you are an angel who could not sit in the same flat with a boiling cabbage."

"Remember that when you are married you probably will see him with trailing suspenders and lather on his face, shaving, and realize at the same time that you may have a smirch across your cheek from the kitchen range some evening when he comes home to dinner, tired and hungry.

"If you have some crown and bridegroom in the back of your mouth, don't be afraid to acknowledge it; it is much safer to be afraid not to tell him.

"If you should get mad at him on the impulse of a moment, have it out with him freely; it might be an awful shock six weeks after marriage.

"Remember that he is a man and may be careless of a good many things about the home that were not called to his attention in years of lodging house life. Be prepared to exercise a little patience.

"Don't be in ignorance of the fact that children are the closest ties that hold husband and wife together.

"Don't be pessimistic in regard to the responsibilities of motherhood; a man and his wife may learn some of the sweetest of life's meanings as they stand at the grave of a dead baby.

"Be sure you are a woman in his true sense, and make sure that you are marrying a man. A mere man is good enough, but at the same time he will be faithful enough, as you will have to learn.

"Then, as woman and man, take care of the relationship of wife and husband.

"Doing so, you have the secret of keeping the love of a husband."

Disillusionment Cause of Divorce.

Yet all of this is just a little between the lines as they were spoken.

"Disillusionment may be put down as the one great cause for the estrangement of affections and suit for divorce in Chicago," said Judge Kavanagh.

Judge Kavanagh and Brentano of the Superior branch have been hearing 95 per cent of the recent divorce cases in the courts, and Judge Kavanagh's opinions, while those of a bachelor, are none the less keen and well considered. He has looked beyond the causes named in the bills for divorce for the more subtle causes.

"It would be impossible to say that a husband is more likely to lose affection for the wife than the wife is to lose affection for him," continued the judge. "Both are open to the disillusion that may follow marriage. It is as likely

